

REMARKS:

Applicant has carefully considered the Office Action mailed May 10, 2005.

Reconsideration of the application in view of this amendment in response thereto is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 10-12, 15, 18-20, 21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salcman et al (U.S. Pat. No. 3,826,244). Claims 1, 6, 10-12, 15, 18-20, 21, and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9-11, 13, 15, and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hill et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,560,472). Claims 1, 6, 7, 9-11, 13, 15, and 18-24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Hill et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,560,472). Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

It is noted that claims 2-5, 8 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 8 and 14 have been cancelled and rewritten independently, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as new claims 45-47, respectively. Claims 3-4 have been amended to now be dependent from new claim 45. Claim 5 is directly dependent from claim 4 and indirectly dependent from new claim 45.

It is noted with appreciation that claim 25 is allowed as originally submitted.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if it is felt that the prosecution of this application may be expedited thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

IVAN OSORIO et al

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald R. Schoonover". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and 'S'.

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